

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07  
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00  
SAJ-01 NSC-05 EB-07 OMB-01 H-01 /074 W  
-----111939Z 007884 /46

R 111753Z JAN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9364  
SECDEF WASHDC  
INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS  
USCINCEUR  
CINCUSAREUR  
CINCUSNAVEUR  
CINCUSAFE  
USNMR SHAPE

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E.O. N/A  
TAGS: UK, PINR, MILI  
SUBJECT: RETIREMENT OF CHIEF OF NAVAL STAFF

1. THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE HAS ANNOUNCED THAT ADMIRAL SIR EDWARD ASHMORE, 57, CHIEF OF NAVAL STAFF AND FIRST SEA LORD, WILL RETIRE IN AUGUST. ADMIRAL SIR TERENCE LEWIN, 56, AT PRESENT COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF NAVAL HOME COMMAND, WILL SUCCEED ASHMORE. ADMIRAL SIR DAVID WILLIAMS, 55, AT PRESENT CHIEF OF NAVAL PERSONNEL AND SECOND SEA LORD, WILL SUCCEED LEWIN.

2. ADMIRAL SIR EDWARD ASHMORE'S RETIREMENT COMES ON THE HEELS OF PRESS SPECULATION THAT HE PLANNED TO RESIGN IN PROTEST AGAINST THE NEW DEFENSE CUTS CONTAINED IN THE HEALEY IMF LOAN ECONOMIC PACKAGE. THIS SPECULATION WAS VIGOROUSLY DENIED AT THE TIME AND MOD SOURCES  
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HAVE CONFIRMED THAT ASHMORE'S RETIREMENT IS NOT UNUSUAL -- AND THAT IN FACT IT HAS BEEN PLANNED FOR SEVERAL MONTHS AND ONLY NOW IS BEING ANNOUNCED. NONETHELESS, IT IS WELL KNOWN THAT ASHMORE OPPOSED THE NEW CUTS AND WITH HIS FELLOW CHIEFS CONVEYED THE MILITARY'S CONCERN THAT THE UK'S MILITARY STRENGTH IS BEING DANGEROUSLY DEPLETED.

ARMSTRONG

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, PERSONNEL SEPARATIONS, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 11-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977LONDON00489  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770010-0949  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** RETIREMENT OF CHIEF OF NAVAL STAFF  
**TAGS:** PINR, MILI, UK, (ASHMORE, EDWARD), (WILLIAMS, DAVID)  
**To:** STATE DOD  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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